



# Cobourg Taxpayers Association

*Making Local Government Accountable*

Mayor G. Brocanier  
Town of Cobourg Municipal Offices  
Victoria Hall  
55 King Street West  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 2M2

September 6, 2016

Dear Mayor Brocanier

Our letter was written to let Deputy Mayor Henderson know that we appreciate his due diligence and accountability and to let Councilor Rowden know that we don't appreciate his lack of it.

We were very disappointed with your comment "then let them eat cake" and your misinterpretation of our comments. The issue is the transit system itself and why the consultant's report from 2 years ago was never acted upon. You state that there is a social obligation to our citizens who depend on a public transit system but that this cannot be achieved without the generosity of taxpayers. We agree and so do many taxpayers. This does not mean that alternatives should not be considered or that transit operations not be reviewed outside of the budget process.

Your statement that a 12.5% increase would be excessive is unjustified. The "Cobourg Transit Review" from the IBI Group states:

- Transit fares have not been increased for some 10 years (currently 12 years) during which time operating costs and the cost of living have increased.
- Not adjusting fares regularly can negatively affect maintaining a reasonable balance between the cost paid by users and the investment in the service by the Town and ratepayers.

Had the fares been adjusted as the IBI study suggested, a large 12.5% increase would not be needed now.

In your email, you also state that your financial philosophy is based on "cost of living" increases yet net transit costs to taxpayers have increased from 2015 to 2016 by 8 %. The average inflation of Canada in 2016 is 1.5 %

\$19,000 was spent on a consultant's report that was never used to determine what should be done. We fail to understand the need to wait until the next budget to review the consultant's work and the transit fares. Waiting until budget time means throwing more money at the problem rather than a systematic review. We are asking that the transit system and related alternatives be reviewed in the context of the transit study, informed decisions be made, and the decisions followed up to ensure they have been implemented.

Lydia Smith  
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Paul Pagnuelo  
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